THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There are no reports of unauthorized buildings and residential colonies on forest land in the immediate vicinity of National Parks and Sanctuaries. However, instances of damage caused by wild animals to human beings and vice versa, have come to the notice of the Central Government. While damage caused to wild animals is dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, there is provision of payment of ex-gratia in case of human death and compensation for injury suffered by human beings.

Vacant Posts in the Forest Department

1104. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of front line posts in the Department of Forest are lying in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the lack of adequate strength of forest guards causes the large scale encroachment on forest land and increases poaching;

(d) if so, whether Government have initiated steps to lift the present ban on recruitments in this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The State-wise information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (f) Lack of required man power does have adverse impacts on protection of forests and wildlife including the prevention of poaching, encroachment etc. The problems have become more acute due to ban on recruitments imposed by various State Governments. Therefore, the Central Government has already urged all the State Governments to fill the vacancies of front line field staff by delegating powers for making appointments to the officials of the Wildlife Wing.

Division to Study Endangered Species

1105. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: